



DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, South-South Solutions

E-newsletter of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP



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Urban Farming to Tackle Global Food Crisis

The world's population is becoming more urban by the day. By 2030, some five billion people around the world will live in cities. This year is the tipping point: urban dwellers (3.3 billion people) now outnumber rural residents for the first time ([UNFPA's State of the World Population 2007 Report](#)).

But with rising food prices across the globe, many city-dwellers are experiencing hunger and real hardship. On international commodity markets, food prices have gone up 54 percent over the last year, with cereal prices soaring 92 percent (FAO – World Food Situation). While living in an urban environment means living cheek-by-jowl with other people, it doesn't mean there aren't ways to grow food and supplement urban dwellers' tight budgets and boost diets.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for food production to increase 50 percent by 2030 just to meet rising demand – and right now there are 862 million people undernourished (FAO). But one solution, urban farming, can make a huge difference, as the Caribbean island of Cuba has shown.

Today, Cuba imports about 50 percent of its minimum fuel and food requirements – a cost that reached US \$1.6 billion last year for food. (Reuters). The island has been buffeted by one food crisis after another in the past two decades, first by the collapse of its aid from the Soviet Union, and then by a fuel crisis. But now, urban farming in Cuba provides most of the country's vegetables, thanks to urban gardens that have sprung up on abandoned land in the country's cities and towns. And the food is pesticide-free: 70 percent of the vegetables and herbs on the island are organic (<http://www.soilassociation.org/web/sa/saweb.nsf/Living/whatisorganic.html>).

These urban farms mean fresh food is just a short walk away from the people who eat it. And in a world of rising fuel prices, Cuba has reduced the use of fossil fuels in the production and transportation of food.

The urban farms have created 350,000 jobs that pay better than most government jobs. It has also improved Cuban's health: many have moved from diets dominated by rice and beans and imported canned goods from Eastern Europe, to fresh vegetables and fruits.

While Cubans receive at least a basic state ration of rice, beans and cooking oil, the rations do not include fresh fruit and vegetables. After the withdrawal of Soviet subsidies, the average Cuban's daily calorie intake fell sharply. Between 1989 and 1993, daily calorie intake dropped from 3,004 to 2,323 (UN). But with the growth of urban farms, this has moved up to 3,547 calories a day – even higher than the amount recommended for Americans by the US government.

The secret to this success has been the rise of entrepreneurs like Mladis Bouza, a 48-year-old former research biologist who had to abandon a comfortable middle class life after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Her government salary dropped to US \$3 a month. Unable to make ends meet and provide food for her family, she quit her job.

The Cuban government allowed people to turn unused urban land into mini farms. The cities have many vacant lots because the state owns most land and there isn't competition from private developers, as in many other countries. Unusually for communist Cuba, 80 percent of the profits are kept by the farmers. This can be an average wage of US \$71 per month.

"Those salaries are higher than doctors, than lawyers," Roberto Perez, an agronomist who runs the country's first urban farm, told The Associated Press. "The more they produce, the more they make. That's fundamental to get high

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productivity.”

Miladis grabbed this opportunity to farm a half-acre plot near her home in Havana. Along with her husband, she grows tomatoes, sweet potatoes and spinach, and sells the vegetables at a stall on nearby busy street. This has enabled her monthly income to rise to between US \$100 per month and US \$250 per month, far more than the average government salary of US \$19 per month.

Cuba was inspired by greenbelt farms in Shanghai (http://en.shac.gov.cn/hjgl/jqgk/t20030805_82028.htm) : but Cuba has gone even further to make urban farming a key part of the national food supply.

All this urban farming is also all-natural farming. Farms have had to turn to natural compost as fertilizer, and natural pesticides like strong-smelling celery to ward off insects.

So-called organoponicos (<http://academicos.cualtos.udg.mx/Pecuarios/PagWebEP/Lecturas/ORGANOPONICOS.htm>) gather together a wide variety of vegetables, fruits and herbs, as well as ornamental plants. Customers are offered mangos, plantains, basil, parsley, lettuce, garlic, celery, scallions, collard greens, black beans, watermelon, tomatoes, malanga, spinach and sweet potatoes.

"Nobody used to eat vegetables," said David Leon, 50, buying two pounds of Swiss chard at a Havana organoponico. "People's nutrition has improved a lot. It's a lot healthier. And it tastes good."

LINKS:

- [Square Foot Gardening](#): a book with all the details on how to grow food in tight, urban spaces.
- Urban Gardening Help: a website dedicated to tips for urban gardeners, with resources on urban food production.
[Website: http://www.urbangardeninghelp.com/small.htm](http://www.urbangardeninghelp.com/small.htm)
- Small Urban Gardens: a book covering case studies of urban gardens from around the world.
[Website: http://www.amazon.co.uk/Small-Urban-Gardens-Evergreen/dp/3822851418](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Small-Urban-Gardens-Evergreen/dp/3822851418)
- An interactive map showing how the world food crisis is affecting countries.
[Website: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d8184634-07cc-11dd-a922-0000779fd2ac.html?from=text&ndick_check=1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d8184634-07cc-11dd-a922-0000779fd2ac.html?from=text&ndick_check=1)

Connoisseur Chocolate from the South Gets a Higher Price

Like coffee beans, cocoa beans are grown around the world and are a major commodity, highly prized in wealthy countries. West Africa accounts for 70 percent of the world's output, with the rest grown either in Indonesia and Brazil (20 percent), or on a smaller scale in countries across the South, from Belize to Madagascar.

Global sales of cocoa beans have grown by an average of 3.7 percent a year since 2001, and the World Cocoa Foundation estimates 40-50 million people depend on cocoa for their livelihood.

But harvesting cocoa comes at a price to the farmers and those who work on the farms. It is estimated that 284,000 children in West Africa work under abusive conditions to harvest the beans. Cocoa farmers usually only benefit from the price of cocoa in the harvest season between October and February. In Ghana, the second largest producer of beans, child slavery allegations have plagued the cocoa plantations, along with too-low prices paid to farmers. Fluctuating global market prices constantly put small-scale farmers at risk of losing everything they have worked for.

But consumers are developing ever-more sophisticated tastes for chocolate, paying more attention to the quality and origin of the beans. Savvy cocoa producers are using this greater awareness to increase prices for farmers and improve conditions for those who work on the farms.

Maturing consumers' palates are now picking chocolate and other food products from the South in much the same way as connoisseurs pick wines. In the United Kingdom alone, sales of Fairtrade-branded goods (www.fairtrade.org.uk) - a scheme that offers guaranteed prices and better trading conditions to farmers - have reached £560 million (US\$1.1 billion) a year. A survey of consumers in six countries found awareness of fairly traded chocolate was highest in the UK, with 43 percent of people having tried it (<http://www.barry-callebaut.com>).

British consumers willing to pay more for ethical products are at the forefront of a global surge in fair trade. Hans Vriens, chief innovation officer with Belgian chocolate makers Barry Callebaut, told The Independent newspaper: "Nowadays, chocolate consumption is coming to resemble the way we enjoy wine: we sample and compare different tastes."

The world's appetite for chocolate is voracious: For example by 2007, volume sales of chocolate confectionery increased from 1998 by 30 percent in Eastern Europe, and by 40 percent in the Asia Pacific region. Europeans devour 35 percent of the world's cocoa.

In order to be classed as Fair Trade, a producer must meet a strict set of criteria governing how people and the environment are treated. The Fair Trade scheme pays farmers a higher price for cocoa beans, calculated on the basis of world market prices, plus fair trade premiums. The Fair Trade premium for standard quality cocoa is US\$150 per tonne. The minimum price for Fair Trade standard quality cocoa, including the premium, is US\$1,750 per tonne. Fair Trade ensures a minimum price of 80 US cents a pound under long-term contracts, with access to credit, and prohibits abusive child labour and forced labour.

At the Chuao Plantation in Venezuela, the local Chuao Empresa Campesina cooperative, representing 100 farmers, is reaping the benefits of developing an exclusive relationship with an Italian chocolate company. [Chocolatier Alessio Tessieri](#) was willing to pay a lot more for the beans if high standards were maintained. His sister Cecilia was struck by the aroma of the rare Criollo bean grown by the farmers: it is the least productive in terms of output, but prized for its flavour.

"We found an aroma that was greatly reminiscent of ripe red fruit and plum preserves, with an extremely delicate aftertaste," she said. "A highly complex and sophisticated aroma lacking any trace of acidity."

Located in [Parque Nacional Henri Pittier](#), a road and sea trip from the capital Caracas, the town of [Chuao](#), population 1,500, has ideal growing conditions because of its high humidity. In the village, the women take care of the drying process. Throughout the town the cocoa beans lay out in the open on verandas. In the warehouses the enormous "masorche" - the fruit of the cocoa trees, looking like big red melons - are split in half and the pulp is removed, revealing the super-sweet white-coated beans inside.

Alessio struck a good deal with the farmers in recognition of the exclusivity of the beans. He pays US\$4 per kilogram against the US\$1.30 per kilo paid by the local merchants. He also took on the farmers' debts with the merchants. But most importantly, he ensured that one of his agronomists would stay behind and supervise the plantation and increase its production, from the current level of 120-130 kilos per hectare to a projected 250-300 kilos.

The Toledo Hills Cacao Cooperative in Belize, South America has developed a relationship with one of the UK's pioneers in fair trade chocolate, [Green & Blacks](#). The Mayan Indians who farm the cocoa live a traditional life more or less as they have done for centuries. They also live in one of the poorest areas of Belize. The profits made are ploughed back into buying machetes, or rubber boots to protect against snake bites. The cocoa harvest helps supplement their traditional way of life.

Green & Blacks has been buying organic cocoa from the farmers' co-operative since 1994 and paying a guaranteed price above the world cocoa price. In 2003, they extended their activities with the cocoa farmers and started the Belize Programme to provide even more support. With an investment of £225,000 (US\$443,350) over three years, the investment was used to help improve management and farming practices, rehabilitate hurricane-damaged crops, plant more cocoa trees, and train farmers in better growing methods. Green & Blacks continues to provide technical advice and support to the farmers. The business relationship with Green & Blacks has been so successful that other farmers in Belize are now interested in cocoa farming.

The pattern is being repeated elsewhere in Latin America. In San Martín, Peru, rice farmers have moved into cocoa to reap the rewards of the higher prices. Alvis Valles Sajami and Alberto Inou Amasifuen are both graduates of the Peru Farmer Field School. Sajami uses a plant nursery as an extra source of income by selling cocoa plants to other farmers. "I already have 4,000 plants, he said. "This (the nursery) will be so important to increase my cocoa area. I can sell planting material to other farmers in order to have a new source of income for my family."

Amasifuen has already increased his own cocoa production from two hectares to five, and has also established a nursery to produce cocoa and timber tree seedlings to sell to area farmers.

"We have an increase in demand for cocoa plants in San Martín," he said. "We expect to provide seedlings not only to our farm, but also to other farmers in expanding their production area."

LINKS:

- International Cocoa Organization, a good source of current data on the trade.
[Website: http://www.icco.org/about/chocolate.aspx](http://www.icco.org/about/chocolate.aspx)
- The Fairtrade Labelling Organization sets the standards for fair-trade and is the place to go to receive official certification.
[Website: www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)
- The Max Havelaar Foundation offers a similar service and is popular in continental Europe.
[Website: http://www.maxhavelaar.nl/pages/default.asp?rID=4](http://www.maxhavelaar.nl/pages/default.asp?rID=4)
- The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) represents the organic farmers' movement.
[Website: www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org)

- World Cocoa Federation was formed in 2000 to play a leading role in helping cocoa farming families by developing and managing effective, on-the-ground programs, raising funds and acting as a forum for broad discussion of the cocoa farming sector's needs.

Website: <http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/about/default.asp>

Agricultural Waste Generating Electricity

Agriculture around the world produces a great deal of waste as a by-product. It can be animal faeces, or the discarded plant husks thrown away when rice, grains or maize are harvested. When this waste meets the urgent need for electricity, something special can happen.

The number of people still without electricity in the South is vast. The failure of major electricity generating power stations to reach so many people has spurred entrepreneurs to come to the rescue. Power is critical to so many things: small businesses need it, anyone wanting access to computers and the Internet needs it, and modern appliances like refrigerators run on it. During the past 25 years, electricity supplies have been extended to 1.3 billion people living in developing countries. Yet despite these advances, roughly 1.6 billion people, a quarter of the global population, still have no access to electricity and some 2.4 billion people rely on traditional biomass fuels, including wood, agricultural residues and dung, for cooking and heating. More than 99 percent of people without electricity live in developing regions, and four out of five live in rural areas of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa ([International Energy Agency, IEA](#)).

Power outages in Africa are a serious and frequent problem and a significant force holding back development. With global oil prices on the rise, turning to diesel generators is an expensive option.

According to the IEA, the lack of electricity leaves poor countries "trapped in a vicious circle of poverty, social instability and underdevelopment."

In India, 80,000 of the country's half a million villages lack electricity. Two students, Charles Ransler and Manoj Sinha, have started a business providing electricity to some of these villages by turning rice husks - a by-product of rice milling - into gas that then powers an electricity generator.

Already, two of their rice-burning generators are providing electricity to 10,000 rural Indians. The hope is to rapidly expand the business to hundreds of small village power plants.

The business, [Husk Power Systems](#), was started while the two were at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.

While the generator burns the rice husks to make a gas to produce electricity, it also leaves behind a waste product of ash that is sold as an ingredient in cement.

This technology can provide off-grid power to rural Indian villages of 200 to 500 households. Using the husk-powered mini power plant, the team plans to offset close to 200 tons of carbon emissions per village, per year in India.

The idea for the rice husk generators was originally conceived by Sinha and Gyanesh Pandey, the third partner in Husk Power, who left an engineering career in Los Angeles to return to India and oversee the rice husk project. Sinha and Pandey went to college together in India and both come from rural Indian villages that struggle with a lack of electricity.

"We grew up in those areas," said Sinha. "Our relatives still do not have electricity. We wanted to give back to those areas." Originally they envisioned refining the generator concept and raising enough money to donate rice-husk generators for two or three villages near where they grew up, said Sinha.

But instead, after some research, they realised it could be a financially viable business expandable to hundreds of villages. There are 480 million Indians with no power and 350 million of them live in rural villages, concentrated in eastern India's "Rice Belt," where the villagers are "rice rich and power poor," said Ransler.

The project has already won a fistful of prizes, including US\$50,000 from the [Social Innovation Competition at the University of Texas](#).

They think that each rice husk generator is to break even in about two and a half years.

And they like to think this is the Starbucks of off-grid electricity generation, potentially as successful as the globe-spanning US coffee shop chain. "You can put one of these in 125,000 locations, hire local people, and turn a raw material into money - just substitute rice husks for coffee beans," said Ransler.

Another maker of biomass mini power plants in India is [Decentralised Energy Systems India \(DESI power\)](#). It is a New Delhi-based non-profit company specialising in building a decentralised power network for rural India. It was formed by Development Alternatives, India's largest sustainable development NGO. It is able to provide a megawatt of electricity to a village for the cost of 44 million rupees, rather than 57 million rupees from the central grid.

LINKS:

- Global Social Venture Competition.

Website: <http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/responsiblebusiness/GSVC2008CallforEntrants.html>

- Ignite Clean Energy Competition sponsored by MIT.

Website: <http://www.ignitecleanenergy.com/>

The Disabled in the South can Make Money, Restore Dignity

The South's disabled are a large population and often suffer more than even the poorest able-bodied residents. It is estimated that there are 500 million disabled people in the world, with either mental, physical or sensory impairment. As many as 80 percent of all disabled people live in isolated rural areas in developing countries, and in some countries more than 20 percent of the population is classed as disabled (UN).

Obstacles are everywhere for the disabled and just being able to economically survive, let alone thrive, can be a superhuman struggle. There are many physical and social barriers in most countries which thwart full participation, and millions of children and adults live lives of segregation and degradation.

But two radically different approaches show something can be done, and perceptions re-shaped.

In the Republic of Congo in central Africa, blind entrepreneur Jean-Pierre Louya is mentoring other blind people in the business of making soap. There are an estimated 11,709.95 blind people, or 0.3% of the population of 3,903,318 (http://www.uniteforsight.org/eye_stats.php). Most are blind because their eye infections have gone untreated, or they have diseases like diabetes.

Life is very hard for many in Congo. Brazzaville, the capital, was heavily damaged in a civil war in 1997 and many thousands were killed.

Jean-Pierre, who is also the head of the country's association for the blind (<http://www.afub-uafa.org/pages/pages3.asp>), picked up his soap-making skills from a soap cooperative. Once a truck driver, he went blind as a result of an eye disease 25 years ago. With the training from the soap cooperative, he has been successfully running his soap-making business, where he turns palm oil into high-lather soap, and used the profits to raise his seven children and buy some land.

But rather than just keeping his business secrets to himself, Jean-Pierre mentors other blind people in this delicate art. There are many stages in the process of making soap that are risky, but he mixes 20 litres of water with three kilograms of caustic soda - the most dangerous part of making soap - by using his memory. He knows what temperature it is by touch, how to get the mixture right by smell, and what amounts to use by sound.

Pouring in the hot palm oil, he told Reuters: "The barrel was already hot, so the first bit of oil I poured made noise: that's how I knew I had poured the liquid inside the barrel."

"It was very hard for me to accept this condition," he said. "It was two years before I could go out in public because I was embarrassed that my friends see me this way."

"A blind person is teaching a trade to another blind person," said Samuel Koubouana, a blind apprentice soapmaker Jean-Pierre is teaching. "It really means a lot to me. JP is improving my life."

Jean-Pierre relies a great deal on the goodwill of local people to get around. As local Lenvo Lydie told Reuters: "Blind people really suffer in this country. The blind should be driven from one point to another rather than being left alone to fend for themselves in the streets."

But in Congo there are few government programmes for disabled people and none for the blind. As president of the Association of the Blind in Congo, Jean-Pierre is helping other blind people take control of their lives.

In Angola, the Miss Landmine contest has taken a highly controversial approach to restoring dignity to the disabled. The brainchild of Norwegian theatre director Morten Traavik, the beauty contest featuring landmine amputees took place for the first time in April in Angola's capital, Luanda. Angola has one of the highest rates of landmine amputees in the world, after a brutal 27-year civil war. Estimates place the number injured at 80,000.

The 18 contestants represented each province of the country, and the contest is about restoring self-esteem in women who have been isolated and marginalised. Traavik was shocked by the large number of amputees, but he also saw that Angolans really liked beauty contests. The contest's motto is "Everyone has the right to be beautiful".

It is funded by the Angolan government's de-mining commission and [Norway's Arts Council](#). Participants receive US \$196 a day and get to keep their dresses and jewellery. The winner, 31-year-old Augusta Hurica from Luanda, becomes an ambassador for international landmine survivors.

While the contest has had many critics, it has been so successful it will be replicated in Cambodia next year. And a worldwide contest is in the works for 2015.

Emilia Luzia, a contestant, told Marie Claire magazine: "I am happy to be representing my region and all disabled people, but it is also good to feel special and glamorous. This is the first time I've worn such nice clothes."

Another contestant took on the critics. Twenty-six-year-old Sandra Tichika, said: “Most of the ladies here are from small villages: we struggle, we are isolated, yet here we are being noticed and accepted – how bad can that be?”

LINKS:

- The official website for the Miss Landmine 2008 contest contains photos and news updates.
Website: http://www.miss-landmine.org/misslandmine_news.html
- The official website of the African Union of the Blind, linking all the continent’s associations.
Website: <http://www.afub-uafa.org/pages/page3.asp>
- United Nations Association USA campaign: Adopt-a-Minefield.
Websites: <http://www.landmines.org/>
- The United Nation’s World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons:
Website: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/diswpa00.htm>
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: an excellent resource on trends and statistics.
Website: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html>

- **Rising Food Prices: Drivers and Implications for Development**
by Alex Evans, Publisher: Chatham House.
[Website: www.chathamhouse.org.uk/news/view/-/id/451/](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/news/view/-/id/451/)
- **In Arabian Nights: In Search of Morocco through its Stories and Storytellers**
by Tahir Shah, Publisher: Doubleday.
[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **Essays on India by Carlo Levy**
by Antony Shugaar, Publisher: Hesperus.
[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **The Wizard of the Nile**
by Matthew Green, Publisher: Portobello.
[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **Live Working or Die Fighting: How the Working Class Went Global**
by Paul Mason, Publisher: Vintage.
[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population**
by Matthew Connolly, Publisher: Harvard.
[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **Rainbow's End: An African Memoir**
by Lauren St John. Publisher: Penguin.
[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **The Growth Report**
by Michael Spence
There were differences between the countries but also common lessons, it said. These lessons were that all fully exploited the world economy; they sustained microeconomic stability while mustering high rates of savings and investments; they let markets allocate resources; and they had committed, credible and capable governments.
[Website: http://www.growthcommission.org/](http://www.growthcommission.org/)
- **Wireless Technology for Social Change: Trends in NGO Mobile Use**
by Sheila Kinkade and Katrin Verclas, Publisher: MobileActive.org.
[Website: www.mobileactive.org](http://www.mobileactive.org)
- **African Economic Outlook 2007/2008**
The African Development Bank and OECD's annual assessment and projections for the African economies, now covering 35 countries.
[Website: http://www.oecd.org/bookshop?812008011p1](http://www.oecd.org/bookshop?812008011p1)
- **Business for Development: Promoting Commercial Agriculture in Africa**
Business for Development 2008 offers a fresh look at African agriculture and seeks ways for it to become a profitable industry.
[Website: http://www.oecd.org/bookshop?812008011p1](http://www.oecd.org/bookshop?812008011p1)
- **Billions of Entrepreneurs: How China and India are Reshaping their Futures – and Yours**
by Tarun Khanna, Publisher: Harvard Business School Press.
[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **MDGs Global Monitoring Report 2008**
by Zia Qureshi, Publisher: World Bank/IMF. A new World Bank-IMF report warns that most countries will fall short on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight globally agreed development goals with a due date of 2015. Though much of the world is set to cut extreme poverty in half by then, prospects are gravest for the goals of reducing child and maternal mortality. Serious shortfalls also likely in primary school completion, nutrition, and sanitation goals. The report also stresses the link between environment and development and calls for urgent action on climate change. To build on hard-won gains, developing countries need support to address the links between growth, development and environmental sustainability.
- **The Economic Naturalist: Why Economics Explains Almost Everything**
by Robert H. Frank, Publisher: Virgin Books.
[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **Donor support to private sector development in sub-Saharan Africa**
by Kiyoto Kurokawa, Fletcher Tembo and Dirk Willem te Velde, Publisher: ODI Working Paper.
[Website: http://www.odi.org.uk/go?where=n10806-pub-wp290](http://www.odi.org.uk/go?where=n10806-pub-wp290)

June

■ Decoupling Growth from Environmental Impact

Nottingham, United Kingdom (30 June - 1 July 2008)

–The conference will cover novel approaches emerging from the academic and research knowledge base and the industrial application of innovative technology. The overall theme for the event is decoupling economic growth from environmental impact addressing the unsustainable use of resources and breaking the link between economic growth, the waste of resources and adverse environmental impact.

Website: http://ren.globalwatchonline.com/epicentric_portal/site/menuitem.d815f54ecca3c9760e7326100680e1a0

July

■ Geneva Trade and Development Forum

Crans Montana, Switzerland (2-5 July 2008)

–This event aims to provide a neutral platform for reflection, innovation, debate and dialogue to address the specific challenges and opportunities of developing countries in their quest to take advantage of integration into the world economy and trade liberalization. It will bring together policymakers, private sector participants, representatives from civil society and academia at the local, national, regional and international level interested in development and trade.

Website: <http://www.gtdforum.org/>

■ 2nd General Assembly and Conference of African Council for Distance Education

Lagos, Nigeria (8-11 July 2008)

–Sponsored by the African Council for Distance Education and the National Open University of Nigeria.

Website: <http://nou.du.ng/noun.acde2008/index.htm>

■ 2nd India Cleantech Forum

New Delhi, India (10-11 July 2008)

–It is an exciting time for the investment in and deployment of Cleantech technologies in India. With a surging economy, rapid growth in urban development, and the urgency to address issues such as climate change, energy security and water scarcity, the demand for technological and financial innovation has created a dynamic new market for Cleantech solutions.

Website: <http://www.cleantechforum.com/node/718/>

■ International Conference on Green Entrepreneurship

St. George's University, Grenada (11-12 July 2008)

–This event merges environmental sustainability, economic development and innovation for achieving sustainable development in the Caribbean region. The three main themes of the conference are eco-tourism, green business solutions, and local economic development.

Website: <http://www.icge.ca/>

■ Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning

London, UK (13-17 July 2008)

–Applications are invited for participation in the Forum. It has grown to become one of the world's leading conferences on learning and global development. This year, it will explore how open and distance learning can help achieve international development goals and education for all.

Website: www.pcf5.london.ac.uk

■ Making Markets Work – a Two-Week Training Programme

Glasgow, UK (13-26 July 2008)

–This unique programme focuses directly on a key challenge facing governments and development agencies: how to make markets function more effectively for business and for poor people? The programme builds on the Springfield Centre's successful record in offering training on the market development approach to more than 700 people over the last nine years.

The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 21st May 2008**. However please note that they are offering an early registration discount for applications and fees received by **Wednesday 9th April 2008**.

Website: www.springfieldcentre.com

■ Energy and Climate Security Post-Bali: From Recognition to Practice

Steyning, United Kingdom (14-17 July 2008)

–This annual conference, held in partnership with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), will bring together governments, international organisations, the REEEP network and the private sector to focus on specific themes which address how the development of renewable energy can be scaled up quickly and energy efficiencies increased.

Website: <http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/environment/conference.aspx?confref=WP923>

■ Guardian Climate Change Summit

London, United Kingdom (16 July 2008)

–Climate change is rarely out of the news, but increased awareness has brought mixed messages, confusion and the

risk of fatigue. Leading businesses are striving to deliver a clear message and engage with employees, customers, NGOs and the government. Now is the time for collaboration – a coming together of stakeholders in order to maximize sustainability and minimize environmental impact now and in an uncertain future.

Website: <http://environment.guardian.co.uk/climatesummit>

August

■ World Water Week 2008

Stockholm, Sweden (17-23 August 2008)

–The World Water Week in Stockholm is the leading annual global meeting place for capacity-building, partnership-building and follow-up on the implementation of international processes and programmes in water and development. The theme of the week is "Progress and Prospects on Water: For a Clean and Healthy World", including a Special Focus on Sanitation.

Website: www.worldwaterweek.org

■ 2nd International Conference: Third Sector Innovation: Sustainability and Social Impact

Sao Paulo, Brazil (18 August 2008)

–The focus this year is to continue to raise the profile of the valuable work of social enterprise leaders across Latin America, to share best practices and cases of social innovations.

Email: joao.paulo@gesc.org.br or ashpak@umich.edu **Website:** www.ieta.org

September

■ 13th World Water Congress

Montpellier, France (1-4 September 2008)

–The Congress will provide an excellent forum to meet, discuss and network on water-related issues at the national, regional and global levels. Leading international water experts and policy-makers are being specially invited to discuss the latest developments on different aspects of water management from different parts of the world, and synthesize knowledge in terms of what is being implemented, where and why.

Website: <http://www.worldwatercongress2008.org/>

■ African Carbon Forum

Dakar, Senegal (3-5 September 2008)

–Responding to calls for more clean development mechanism (CDM) projects in Africa and growing carbon market interest in the continent, partner UN agencies and the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) will organize a carbon forum in Senegal under the umbrella of the Nairobi Framework.

Website: http://cdm.unfccc.int/Nairobi_Framework/NF071213_announ_africa.pdf

■ 8th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production

Cebu, Philippines (18-20 September 2008)

–APRCP's approach is to promote technology and information exchange, and to encourage cooperation and partnerships among government, industry, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. APRCP's mission is to provide leadership and support that will enhance information flow and human resource development, and will strengthen public-private partnership to stimulate the promotion and implementation of cleaner production strategies and technologies in the region.

Website: www.aprcp.org/roundtables/8th.htm

■ CANCELLED: TEDAfrica: A gathering of the greatest thinkers and doers from Africa and the world

Cape Town, South Africa (29 September to 1 October 2008)

–What if Africa had no borders? What if her boundaries extended as far as those living in the diaspora, or even further? What if you could fly directly from Cape Town to Cairo, Lagos to Luanda, Bujumbura to Abuja? Or what if you could drive to every city and every town and every village? What if the Internet was a reality for every African? What if you could call the world from atop the Kilimanjaro, or from deep in the forests of the Congo?

Website: [tedafrica](http://tedafrica.com)

Please see statement: (http://blog.ted.com/2008/05/tedafrica_2008.php)

■ 2008 Global Youth Enterprise Conference

Washington DC, USA (15-16 September 2008)

–Making Cents International is excited to announce that the Global Youth Enterprise Conference will take place in Washington, DC September 15th-16th, 2008 at the Cafritz Conference Center. Designed as a participatory learning event, this conference aims to support youth enterprise and entrepreneurship programs and policies achieve greater effectiveness around the world. It will build on the outcomes of the first-ever Global Youth Microenterprise Conference, which Making Cents International organized for 270 practitioners, policymakers, educators, youth, and members of the private sector from 28 countries in September 2007. Making Cents is planning this year for 350 participants to share their promising practices, unique approaches, and groundbreaking ideas that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own businesses or seek quality employment. We invite you to submit a proposal, become a sponsor or exhibitor, and/or register!

Email: conference@makingcents.com

Website: www.youthenterpriseconference.org

■ World Sustainable Building Conference

Melbourne, Australia (21-25 2008)

–The World Sustainable Building (SB) Conference series, held every three years, is the peak gathering of the world's

leading technical experts and researchers on sustainable built environments. SB08 Melbourne will continue the traditional focus on technical developments and case studies. The main objective is to advance sustainability knowledge and practice through market and industry transformation.

Website: <http://www.sb08melbourne.com/>

■ **Emission Markets India 2008** *Mumbai, India (26-27 Sept. 2008)*

–APRCP's approach is to promote technology and information exchange, and to encourage cooperation and partnerships among government, industry, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. APRCP's mission is to provide leadership and support that will enhance information flow and human resource development, and will strengthen public-private partnership to stimulate the promotion and implementation of cleaner production strategies and technologies in the region.

Website: http://www.tco2eindia.com/conference_detail.php?id=0

October

■ **World Conservation Congress 2008**

Barcelona, Spain (5-14 October 2008)

–Held every four years, the World Conservation Congress is one of the world's most important events devoted to improving our natural environment for human, social and economic development. More than 8,000 leaders from governments, NGOs, business, UN agencies, scientific domains and community groups are expected to attend.

Website: www.iucn.org/congress/2008/index.htm

■ **Carbon Finance 2008**

London, United Kingdom (9-11 Oct. 2008)

–This event will provide an in-depth update on the global carbon markets. Attend to hear top-level industry speakers give a full global carbon update - the outlook for the Kyoto process, recent legislation and emissions trading activity on an international level. Participate in nine brainstorming roundtable discussions, and numerous thought-provoking panel sessions.

Website: <http://www.environmental-finance.com/conferences/2008/CFEUR08/intro.htm>

■ **MobileActive08**

Johannesburg, South Africa (13-15 October 2008)

–Do you have expertise in the field of mobile technologies for social development? Are you a researcher with research findings to showcase about mobile technology for social impact? Are you a mobile service provider with specific products to exhibit that benefit the social market? If so, we invite you to submit your ideas to be part of [MobileActive08!](#)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: June 30.

Website: <http://e2ma.net/go/1099129051/997104/36451235/goto:http://www.mobileactive08.org/call-for-expertise>

November

■ **CSR Asia Summit 2008**

Bangkok, Thailand (3-4 November 2008)

–Amidst a growing call for companies to engage with CSR initiatives in Asia, the event is poised to explore hot topics unique to the Asian context, which would bring new insights for businesses, governments, NGOs and other CSR practitioners.

Website: <http://www.csr-asia.com/summit08/>

■ **Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum**

Nanjing, China (3-7 November 2008)

–The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It is projected that in the next fifty years, two-thirds of humanity will be living in towns and cities. A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities, improve the urban poor's access to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water and sanitation and achieve environment-friendly, sustainable urban growth and development.

Website: www.unhabitat.org

■ **South Africa: The Power of Movements – [Announcement and call for proposals](#)**

Cape Town, South Africa (14-17 November 2008)

–Up to 1,500 women's rights activists from around the world will gather to debate and strategize about how to build a stronger global women's movement. Proposals are sought for organizing a session.

Website: www.awid.org

Training Opportunities

ONGOING

- **Microenterprise and Development Institute New Hampshire 2008**

Manchester, New Hampshire, USA (8-21 June 2008)

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

–The MDI New Hampshire offers another highly relevant programme for microfinance and community development practitioners. The two-week programme presents 19 courses in three Knowledge Tracks: Microfinance, Pro-Poor Enterprise Development and Community Economic Development. Academic credit and Masters degree options are available.

Email: w.maddocks@snhu.edu

Telephone: 603-644-3124

Website: www.mdi-nh.org

- **Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs**

[Grameen Info](#)

CAREERS

- **New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**

–Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africancareerguidance.com

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

- **Institute of Social Studies in The Hague**

–A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

- **Funding - Google.org**

–While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment.

Website: www.google.org

- **Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

–This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

- **Piramal Foundation in India**

–Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

- **The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award**

–This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: [Pioneers of Prosperity](#)

■ **African Writers Fund**

–Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: <http://www.trustafrica.org>

■ **Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme**

–Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

Email: namstct@vsnl.com;

namstct@bol.net.in;

apknam@gmail.com;

Website: <http://www.scidev.net>; <http://www.namstct.org>

■ **Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition**

–Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the ‘world’s first global youth development competition’.

Click [here](#) for more information

■ **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

–AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: <http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org/>

■ **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za>

■ **Genesis: India’s Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

–A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

■ **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

–They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

Website: <http://www.echoinggreen.org/>

■ **2008 Sustainable Banking Awards**

–The Financial Times, in partnership with IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, today launched the 2008 edition of the FT Sustainable Banking Awards, the leading awards for triple bottom line banking.

Two new categories - Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid, and Sustainable Investor of the Year - have been added to the ground-breaking programme.

The awards, now in their third year, were created by the FT and IFC to recognise banks that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations.

Website: <http://www.ifc.org>

■ **Challenge InnoCentive**

–A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com/>

You can read more about the challenges here: <http://www.rockfound.org>

■ **Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

–Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialedge.org

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)

- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)

Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta
cosmas.gitta@undp.org Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation